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# AMAZON INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND RESOURCES

The active and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in development planning and decisions impacting the Amazon is the foundation for long-term conservation of the world's largest tropical rainforest. Safeguarding indigenous peoples' rights and resources will help conserve irreplaceable biodiversity and promote cultural survival and self-determined development.

The Amazon Indigenous Rights and Resources (AIRR) activity seeks to conserve biodiversity by empowering indigenous peoples to better exercise their rights in the face of large-scale infrastructure development and extractive activities that may affect their livelihoods. The activity aims to incorporate the rights and interests of indigenous peoples into public and private sector development planning to balance human welfare and environmental conservation.

## HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

AIRR is managed for USAID by the World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund (WWF) through a network of specialized NGOs in each country that work together with indigenous peoples' organizations at the national and local levels. The project involves 20 partners working on both thematic priorities and focused geographic areas. AIRR project has established a governance structure that provides partners with a substantial role in the local and national decision-making of the activities of the

project. Three decision-making bodies ensure the representation, relevance, and impact of project activities through various levels of engagement. The AIRR project will strengthen the skills of indigenous peoples to more effectively advocate and negotiate for their rights, and to better monitor their lands. The project will also promote indigenous enterprises to grow and consolidate their businesses to reach national, regional or international markets through a combination of grants, loans and market.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- Capacity building for leaders of indigenous peoples' organizations in Peru, Colombia and Brazil. In Peru, AIDESEP created the first School of Indigenous Governance for Amazonian Development and in Colombia OZIP and WWF have the Indigenous Territorial Governance Training Program while in Brazil a training program for young indigenous communicators was launched together with COIAB.
- Five scholarships were given to women through AIDESEP's Amazon Indigenous Women's Fund to promote initiatives in governance, territory, health, food sovereignty, forests, climate, economy, culture and resilience to the pandemic.
- At the regional level, COICA's Early Warning System (SAT) has been strengthened and in Brazil the Amazon Observation and Monitoring System and Indigenous Climate Alert have been updated, as well as two indigenous surveillance pilots led by IPAM and OPAN.
- COICA's participation in international forums has been supported. As a result, a commitment was made for the participation of indigenous representatives in the World Bank's safeguards group. Likewise, the 20th UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues included its recommendations on consultation mechanisms, protection of rights and ratification of the Escazú Agreement.
- Twenty-two indigenous enterprises working on handicraft, agro-industry, tourism, forest-derived food products and natural medicines from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru have been selected and will be strengthened. The incorporation of indigenous enterprises from Brazil is planned.
- 12 forums have been organized on the indigenous economy and entrepreneurial experiences through the "Amazon Space" series.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**IMPLEMENTER:** World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

**PARTNERS:** All in for Development, NESsT, Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira (COIAB), Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDESEP), Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN), Organization of Indigenous Peoples from the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC), Indigenous Zonal Organization of Putumayo (OZIP), Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV), Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM).

**ALLIANCE DURATION:** August 24, 2019 – August 24, 2024

**USAID FUNDING:** \$17,962,505

**LOCATION:** Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana and Suriname.

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